

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BUDAPE 01195 221512Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 TRSE-00 STR-07 USIA-15 /053 W
-----084758 230257Z /15

R 221138Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1013
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS BUDAPEST 1195

FOR G AND F

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, HU
SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN GRAIN SITUATION

1. DR. ISTVAN MESZAROS, GENERAL DIRECTOR FOR COORDINATING HUNGARIAN CROP PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, BRIEFED AGATT ON MARCH 21 ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF GRAIN CROP IN HUNGARY.

2. AFTER AGATT REMARKED THAT BASED ON EXTENSIVE FIELD OBSERVATIONS THE WHEAT FIELD DID NOT LOOK AS GOOD AS LAST YEAR, MESZAROS AGREED. HE SAID THIS MARCH THE CONDITION OF THE FALL SOWN GRAIN WAS ABOUT 10 PERCENT LOWER THAN IN 1977. NEVERTHELESS, HE WAS OPTIMISTIC OVER THE PROSPECTS FOR THE HUNGARIAN GRAIN CROP IN 1978.

3. FALL WEATHER WAS NOT VERY FAVORABLE FOR PLANTING THE WINTER CROP (WHEAT RYE AND WINTER BARLEY). WEATHER WAS DRY AND GERMINATION IN MANY FIELDS WAS DELAYED. ABOUT 10 TO 15 PERCENT OF THE CROP GERMINATED ONLY IN LATE JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY. ON TOP OF THIS THE RELATIVELY THIN SNOW COULD NOT GIVE THE USUAL PROTECTION FROM
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BUDAPE 01195 221512Z

FREEZES. DESPITE THIS UNFAVORABLE SITUATION AT THIS TIME. MESZAROS BELIEVED HUNGARY SHOULD BE ABLE TO MEET OR COME CLOSE TO ITS 13 MIL TONS GRAIN TARGET IN 1978.

4. LAST FALL HUNGARY PLANTED 1.32 MIL HECTARES OF WHEAT, ABOUT THE SAME AS A YEAR BEFORE. WHILE FREEZE DAMAGE MAY RUN AROUND 2 PERCENT AGAINST 1 PERCENT OVER A YEAR

AGO, WHEAT PRODUCTION THIS YEAR MAY WELL MATCH LAST YEAR'S RECORD CROP. MESZAROS EXPLAINED THAT LAST FALL A NEW HIGHER YEILDING WHEAT VARIETY WAS INTRODUCED ON A LARGE SCALE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BRING BETWEEN 10 TO 15 PERCENT MORE WHEAT PER HECTARE THAN WHEAT USED IN THE PAST. THE NEW HIGHER YIELDING VARIETY NOW COVERS ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF THE WHEAT PAREA AGAINST ONLY ABOUT 5 PERCENT A YEAR BEFORE.

5. MESZAROS EXPECTS ALSO A BETTER PERFORMANCE FOR HUNGARY'S CORN CROP IN 1978. FIELDS USUALLY ASSIGNED FOR CORN PRODUCTION ARE THIS YEAR IN BETTER SHAPE THAN LAST YEAR. THE DRY FALL SELPED REDUCE SUBSTANTIALY WATER CLOGGED LANDS WHICH OFTEN PREVENTED GROWERS TO MEET PRODUCTION TARGETS FOR CORN. LAST YEAR ALONE NEARLY 100,000 HECTARES WERE LEFT UNPLANTED BECAUSE OF WET SOIL. AS A RESULT LESS THAN 1.3 MIL HECTARES OF CORN WERE HARVESTED INSTEAD OF THE PLANNED 1.4 MIL HECTARES.

6. MESZAROS BELIEVES THAT THIS YEAR GROWERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO MEET THE 1.4 MIL HECTAR CORN TARGET AND WITH A HOPED FOR 5.0 TONS PER HECTAR YIELD, HUNGARY SHOULD BE ABLE TO PRODUCE AROUND 7 MIL TONS OF CORN IN 1978.

7. COMMENTS. BASED ON MESZAROS' REMARKS AND THE PRESENT CONDITION OF THE WHEAT CROP HUNGARY IN 1978
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BUDAPE 01195 221512Z

MAY AGAIN HARVEST 5.3 MIL TONS OF WHEAT, GIVEN REASONABLY GOOD WEATHER. IF FARMERS PLANTED THE FULL 1.4 MIL HECTARES TARGETED FOR CORN, THIS CROP COULD BRING UP TO 7 MIL TONS IN 1978. WITH ANOTHER .9 MIL TONS IN REMAINING SMALL GRAINS HUNGARY'S GRAIN CROP IN 1978 COULD POSSIBLY REACH 13 MIL TONS.

8. EVEN THOUGH HUNGARY MAY HARVEST 500,000 TONS MORE GRAIN IN 1978 THAN A YEAR BEFORE, EXPORT AVAILABILITIES PERHAPS WILL NOT BE INCREASED BY THIS MUCH DURING 1978/79 BECAUSE OF INCREASED DOMESTIC NEEDS BY LIVESTOCK. EXPORTS OF GRAIN MAY BE LIMITED TO AROUND 800,000 TONS EACH FOR CORN AND WHEAT.
KAISER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, GRAINS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUDAPE01195
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780127-0502
Format: TEL
From: BUDAPEST
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780339/aaaabgtq.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1570c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3244125
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUNGARIAN GRAIN SITUATION
TAGS: EAGR, HU
To: USDA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1570c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014